We claim:

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- The use of copolymers obtainable by free-radical polymerization of
 - A) 50-99.9% by weight of an olefinically unsaturated C_3-C_5 -monocarboxylic acid, of an olefinically unsaturated C_4-C_8 -dicarboxylic acid or of its anhydride or a mixture of such carboxylic acids or anhydrides with
 - B) 0.1 50% by weight of one or more long-chain compounds with isolated C-C multiple bonds from the group comprising
 - (1) mono- or polyunsaturated C₈-C₃₀-monocarboxylic acids which may have additional hydroxyl groups, as well as their alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts, alkyl esters, amides sorbitan esters, glycerol esters or polyglycerol esters,
 - (2) mono- or polyunsaturated aliphatic C₈-C₃₀-amines,
- (3) mono- or polyunsaturated C_8 - C_{30} -alcohols as well as their esters with saturated C_1 - C_4 -monocarboxylic acids,
 - (4) C_8-C_{30} -alkyl vinyl ethers which may contain up to 25 alkylene oxide units incorporated, and
 - (5) terminal or internal C_{16} – C_{30} -alkenes,
 - C) 0 49.9% by weight of other copolymerizable monomers and
- 35 D) 0 10% by weight of one or more compounds with at least two olefinically unsaturated groups in the molecule as crosslinkers,

as thickeners or dispersants.

- 2. The use of copolymers as claimed in claim 1, which are obtainable by free-radical polymerization of
- A) 75 99.45% by weight of carboxylic acid component A,

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- B) 0.5 24.95% by weight of the long-chain compounds with isolated C-C multiple bonds B,
- C) 0 24.45% by weight of other copolymerizable monomers and
 - D) 0.05 5% by weight of the crosslinker component D.
- 3. The use of copolymers as claimed in claim 1 or 2, prepared using acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or maleic anhydride as component A.
- 4. The use of copolymers as claimed in claims 1 to 3, prepared using as component B one or more long-chain compounds with isolated olefinic double bonds from the group comprising
 - (1) mono— to tetraunsaturated C_{14} — C_{24} —monocarboxylic acids as well as their alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts, C_1 — C_4 —alkyl esters, glycerol esters or polyglycerol esters,
 - (2) mono— to tetraunsaturated aliphatic primary $C_{14}-C_{24}$ -amines,
- 25 (3) mono- to tetraunsaturated primary C_{14} - C_{24} -alcohols as well as their esters with saturated C_1 - C_4 -monocarboxylic acids,
- (4) C₁₀-C₂₅-alkyl vinyl ether's which may contain up to 10 alkylene oxide units incorporated, and
 - (5) terminal C_{16} — C_{24} —alkenes.
- 5. The use of copolymers as claimed in claims 1 to 4, prepared using as component D allyl ethers of pentaerythritol, trimethylolpropane or sucrose with at least two allyl ether units in the molecule as well as allyl methacrylate, oleyl (meth)acrylate or methylenebisacrylamide.
- 40 6. The use of copolymers as claimed in claim 1 as thickeners or dispersants in cosmetic preparations.
 - 7. The use of copolymers as claimed in claim 1 as thickeners or dispersants in pharmaceutical preparations.
 - 8. A copolymer obtainable by free-radical polymerization of AMENDED SHEET

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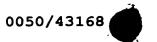
- A) 50 99.9% by weight of an olefinically unsaturated C_3-C_5 -monocarboxylic acid, of an olefinically unsaturated C_4-C_8 -dicarboxylic acid or of its anhydride or a mixture of such carboxylic acids or anhydrides with
- B) 0.1 50% by weight of one or more long-chain compounds with isolated C-C multiple bonds from the group comprising
- (1) mono— and polyunsaturated C₈—C₃₀-monocarboxylic acids which may have additional hydroxyl groups, as well as their alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts, alkyl esters, amides, sorbitan esters, glycerol esters or polyglyperol esters,
 - (2) mono- and polyunsaturated aliphatic C₈-C₃₀-amines,
 - (3) mono- and polyunsaturated C_8-C_{30} -alcohols as well as their esters with saturated C_1-C_4 -monocarboxylic acids,
 - (4) C_8-C_{30} -alkyl vinyl ethers which may contain up to 25 alkylene oxide units incorporated,
 - C) 0 49.9% by weight of other copolymerizable monomers and
 - D) 0 10% by weight of one or more compounds with at least two olefinically unsaturated groups in the molecule as crosslinkers.
 - 9. A cosmetic or pharmaceutical preparation containing copolymers as claimed in claims 1 to 5 as thickeners and dispersants in the amounts customary for this purpose.

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Abstract of the Disclosure: The use of copolymers obtainable by free-radical polymerization of

- 5 A) 50 99.9% by weight of an olefinically unsaturated C_3-C_5 -monocarboxylic acid, of an olefinically unsaturated C_4-C_8 -dicarboxylic acid or of its anhydride or a mixture of such carboxylic acids or anhydrides with
- 10 B) 0.1-50% by weight of one or more long-chain compounds with isolated C-C multiple bonds from the group comprising
- (1) mono- or polyunsaturated C₈-C₃₀-monocarboxylic acids which may have additional hydroxyl groups, as well as their alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts, alkyl esters, amides, sorbitan esters, glycerol esters or polyglycerol esters,
 - (2) mono- or polyunsaturated aliphatic C_8-C_{30} -amines,

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- (3) mono- or polyunsaturated C_8 - C_{30} -alcohols as well as their esters with saturated C_1 - C_4 -monocarboxylic acids,
- (4) C₈-C₃₀-alkyl vinyl ethers which may contain up to 25 alkylene oxide units incorporated, and
 - (5) terminal and internal C_{16} – C_{30} -alkenes,
- C) 0-49.9% by weight of other copolymerizable monomers and 30
 - D) 0-10% by weight of one or more compounds with at least two olefinically unsaturated groups in the molecule as crosslinkers,
- 35 as thickeners or dispersants, especially in cosmetic and pharmaceutical preparations.

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